

Lyle and Vee Taylor  
Oral History  
December 14, 2009

Oral History by Elaine Carr  
Transcribed by Elaine Carr

## Part 2

Elaine: Vee was there anything you remembered that we didn't talk about last week at our first session about your growing up years.

Vee: Yes, I think we didn't talk about the children's books. My mother loved to read. We always at least got or maybe two books each Christmas as family gifts, like *Heidi*, *Heidi Grows Up*, *Secret Garden*, *Lassie*, *Pollyanna*, a series of those. Even up to the time I got married she made sure that we had books like this to read. Because there was no television, and battery radio, so you couldn't listen to that only like for news or special occasions.

Back when I was eight years old I used to stay a lot with my Aunt Lavina and Uncle Delmar Gardner. He was part Indian. Even as a child before they had any children they would come and pick me up from mother's. I was probably two or three years old and take me to Fort Duchesne where they lived and keep me for a day or two and then they'd take me back. They were always very special to me in my life. But, when I was eight one particular time when we were there Aunt Eda and Uncle Jimmy from Salt Lake had brought Grandma and Grandpa Rasmussen to see us all. We were over at Aunt Lavinas and Uncle Delmar's place. They had two little girls and we were outside playing on the lawn. I remember grandpa was lying down on the grass to the south of us and Uncle Delmar, being an Indian, he could hunt all year, so he had taken Uncle Jimmy across the road. We were back in this lane so the big old sunflowers grew up over your head and sometimes you'd get disoriented as to what was north, east, south or west. Uncle Delmar knew, but Uncle Jimmy didn't know because he had never really shot a gun. So, Uncle Delmar was trying to teach him how to use the gun. They were after pheasants. First thing Uncle Delmar knew Jimmy had turned and he was shooting toward the house. I can remember Uncle Delmar said that he stopped him and they ran for the house real quick. The women all came running out of the house and said, "Is anybody hit?" We just kind of looked at each other and pretty soon one of them said, "Oh Vee's got blood running down her face." They looked at my arm and it was all bruised and the leg was bruised.

So they loaded me up and took me to Fort Duchesne because they had an Indian Hospital down there at that time and doctors. They could check the skin to see if there was any bb's from the shotgun in the leg or the arm. Those hadn't penetrated but the one up close in the temple toward the eye had penetrated. I remember they gave me a tetanus shot and it made me so sick. They took me home. My mother's always kind of had a fear of guns. This kind of really set the stage that she didn't want guns around. They took good care of me at home and babied me.

It was what they called the UBIC in Fort Duchesne and so I didn't get to go that year. That's where they had there entertainment that year. They would have about a week, kind of like a holiday, everyday they would have all kinds of activities for adults and children and things you could buy to eat. The biggest thing was the horse shoe pitching and horse pulling down there in Fort Duchesne. This is where the men would bring their horses and they'd have these horse pulling contests. That was always fun. The men, that was the big thing back then. They wanted to take their teams down there and see if their horses wasn't better than anyone else's. Maybe Lyle can tell us what he remembers about the UBIC because it was a big thing.

Lyle: Well originally, I think when it first started, was when the soldiers was stationed down there. They were gone by the time I got old enough to remember but I can remember that they'd bring their good teams from Vernal and clear up to Altamont and Tridell and Roosevelt. They had three different weights, a light weight, a middle weight, and a heavy weight, horses. They'd have to weigh their horses so they knew which category they went in. Then they'd have a contest and it seems like they gave a new harness as the prize for the best pulling team in each division. People would come up from all over to watch it. People were still using teams then to make their living, to do their freighting and farming and all that stuff so they had to have good teams. That was quite a feat to win the harness.

Elaine: Did your family participate?

Lyle: Dad had a good horse that they put with one of the Glines up in Tridell and made a good team that done good. Dad always was trying to breed some of his good mares and raise some but it seemed like about the time he'd get 'em broke good why something would happen to them. Horses didn't live as long. They didn't have the vaccines and things like that to protect them from brain fever and some of the diseases that they vaccinate them for now. So we was mostly spectators.

Vee: But, in Fort Duchesne at that time they had in the center a military parade ground and I remember I was so impressed with all the big homes that were built sort of in a U shape. Started at the east and go to the north and back around to the south. The main part of Fort Duchesne the road ran east and west. The hospital sat out to the west up on the hill.

Elaine: Do you think these big homes were the army officials?

Vee: I think so. Then, they had a row of barracks sort of like, smaller ones like what you see in movies today that ran kind of north and south. I think that's where a lot of the soldiers stayed. Then later they had a school. Some of those were turned into an elementary school down there.

Another thing I kind of wanted to mention was mother was always afraid of water because when I was eight, seem like a lot of things happened that summer, her brother was

drowned in the Snake River up in Idaho. He'd gone back to try and rescue his brother in-law. There were three of them that were drowned.

She had a little niece, Maurgarite Paulson, down in Jensen that was drowned in a ditch that would go into the Green River. Then, she had a little brother that was drowned in a watering trough. She always had a fear of water. That's why she always kind of wanted to go with us in places that were dangerous.

Lyle: Drownings were a little more common then. I had a little cousin that wandered and fell into one of the canals between Lapoint and Tridell. She come up missing and we didn't know where she was. Everyone and all the neighborhood was searching for her. There was an old squaw Indian lady there that was helping search that lived in that neighborhood. There was a big drop there where the water swirled. She was standing there watching that and she just jumped out in the middle. When she came back out why she had the little girl. But, it was too late. She had been in too long and passed away.

Elaine: That's too bad. You mentioned among the Ute Tribe.

Vee: Yes, when we lived in Bennett, mother said that she could remember turning out the lights, we had the kerosene lights, and she would sit by the window and watch these Indians dance and make a lot of noise. She was really afraid. She had been born and raised in the Vernal area, Jensen and then the Vernal area before her parents moved to Bennett. So she kind of put a little fear into us kids about the Indians. She always locked the doors and made sure we were safe inside, then she would watch out the windows. They'd usually want to come over and get something to eat or sleep. They [parents] would tell them they could go out to the haystacks and sleep. We had screen doors and she always locked those screen doors. As soon as it started getting dark the doors were locked. She kept the front screen locked a lot.

I can remember when I was a teenager and we moved back to Bennett we knew some of the families again. They would get drunk and come over to the house and want food and want to get in. Mother would never let them in. She always had this poker, what they used in the stove to push the hot coals around. She'd always grab that poker when she knew there were Indians outside. We'd ask her "What are you going to do with it?" She'd say, "I'm going to hit them over the head." Us kids would laugh. It's one of those funny things, yet to her it was really serious because she was kind of afraid. She didn't know what they'd do. Yet there was some that were very, very nice.

Clarence Gardner that was my brother's age, they lived over kind of on the west side of Bennett. My dad said, this home was so clean, you never had to worry about going in. They offered you something to eat. You knew you could eat it because it was nice and clean. The home was always nice. Clarence was another grade school friend of ours and on into high school. Lyle: We went to school with, in grade school and high school, with quite a few Indians, the Cuchs and the Shavanaughs and the Arrochicis, Toneguts, Ninicunts and quite a few of the Indian families around there and we got good friends with them. We didn't think about them as

only class mates and friends. Quite a few of them were good athletes, the Indians. Brother Daniels in our ward, his grandmother was an Indian. The Daniels family most of them were good athletes in high school and grade school.

Vee: To one of the families that lived up there by us were some Redfoot families. Sometimes those girls were mean. We didn't even want to sit by them on the bus because it wasn't anything for them to grab your hair and start a fight. So, I was kind of afraid that way. Then, there was a Toneguts, remember him [Lyle], didn't he get killed in World War II?

Lyle: Yeah, one of them did. Nells, I think was his first name.

Vee: But, they were good people. When I think back on it we were kind of afraid of them but after all I guess we invaded their territory. But Uncle Delmar being a sixteenth Indian, that was enough that they could also get some of the benefits of the Indian culture. He was always very, very, good to us. He said he liked to play cards with Golda because she was fat and jolly. That was one of the things they used to do for their entertainment.

Lyle: When I was little and we'd moved up Deep Creek, one of dad's friends was old George. We called him Nine Ants, but I think his name was Nunantz. He would come up there and have a team with a wagon and have his squaw and some of his kids in the wagon. They'd go hunting and gathering berries and all that stuff. Quite often he'd stop and borrow a saddle horse from us to hunt the deer. They would kill the woodchucks. You'd get the oil out of them you know, to oil their leather on their boots and their clothes. Then, they'd render all that out and then they'd eat the rest of it. When he'd bring a horse back he'd always bring us a hind quarter of a deer. It would always be just as clean as if you'd got it out of a butcher shop. He was real clean. When he'd shoot them, why his wife would help gut them out and skin 'em and dress them. They'd have them in their wagon in clean sacks and covered up. Then they'd take 'em home and that would be part of their winter food. They'd dry them and they would pick chokecherries and wild berries and dry them.

Vee: And the bullberries.

Lyle: They was real good friends to us and they'd always treat us just like a regular neighbor.

Vee: One other thing I remembered, I was probably four, maybe about five. We had a dog called Bob. Jennie just loved this dog Bob. One day the team and wagon ran over the dog and killed it. I remember that we had to go bury it. Dad went with us and helped us dig a spot to bury this dog. We all cried because it was such a pet for us. That was another time that kind of broke our heart to think old Bob got ran over and died.

Lyle: One other thing, I really liked to hunt and fish. When I grew up there in Deep Creek, why I didn't have any brothers and so I was kind of a loaner. It was my job to herd the cows. We only had a fence around the boundary of our ranch and then one pasture. Most of the rest of it was crop land but there was draws and waste areas so it would be my job to herd the cows everyday and then bring them in at night and then we'd put them in our little pasture over night and then I'd take them back and herd them. I got to learn how to make flippers. They have a crotch and then rubber on it and then a little pocket to hold your rocks in. So, when I was growing up I carried a flipper in one hind pocket and a sling shot in the other one. Then in this pocket I'd have a bunch of rocks about the size of a quarter or so for the flipper, and then I'd have some about as big as a dollar or so in this other pocket for the sling shot. Then if something was too far out why I'd shoot out with the slingshot, but if it was fairly close then I'd use a flipper.

We were one of the few people that had an orchard. We had sour cherries and crab apples and apricots and wealthy apples and winter apples. The robins and the magpies and the blue jays and the camp robbers and that would come and raid our cherries, our fruit and that. Mom gave me the responsibility to protect the fruit trees. So I shot a lot of birds and magpies and stuff out of the trees with my flippers and then if they would go up and light in the shade tree or pine tree farther away, why I'd fire at 'em with that slingshot. I never hit too many with my slingshot but I scared 'em away. I did kill rabbits and sage hens and that with my slingshot. That was when I was just probably only maybe seven or eight, nine years old like that. When I was probably about ten, why I got my first twenty-two. Then I learned to hunt bigger game, you know rabbits and pheasants and stuff like that. I remember one time I went to get the cows to bring them in for milking at night. I took my twenty-two and there was some pheasants there by a grain stack that we had and I was trying to get a shot at them. I guess I had a bullet in the barrel and I didn't get a shot. So then when I was driving the cows home, why this one cow, I think we called her old Roney, she was kind of lazy and going along eating and I poked her with my gun and when I poked her in the belly, why the gun went off and I shot her through the belly. She didn't die but she dried up. She quit giving milk. It kind of made her sick. I guess it done something to her insides because when she calved why she didn't survive, she died. I felt kind of bad about that.

Another time when I was a little bit older than that, why I was hunting and my dad had taught me to be careful and not point the gun toward anything you didn't want shoot. I'd been trying to get a shot at a buck deer and it got away before I could get a good shot. I went back to the house and I was cleaning my rifle. I was going to clean it and I thought I had it unloaded. I thought, 'Well I'll just cock it and pull the trigger just to make sure.' I was in my bedroom, anyway that bullet was still in the barrel and Bang, it went right through the wall.

Vee: I think it went to the outside. It's still there.

It made a terrible racket in the room and my mother was the only other one in the house and she came running in there to see if I'd shot myself. There was smoke in the room and everything. When she saw I was alright, why she gave me a pretty bad time for not being more careful.

Vee: While he's talking about using his first twenty-two, that's what he taught me after we were married and moved up there was to shoot rabbits and things with the twenty-two. We were still trying to protect the pie cherries and the apples because of all the birds. I guess we need to feel guilty because we'd shoot those birds out of the tree so they wouldn't eat our fruit. We loved the pie cherries. We carried that over from his childhood up there because they had this big cellar just right next to the cabin there where they had all their fruit and potatoes and everything stored. It's caved in today but it was quite a remarkable place in its day.

Lyle: There was quite a long ride about fourteen miles from our ranch to Lapoint, and first we had a wagon and it would be kind of slow so we'd have our flippers and we had tin cans and bottles and stuff set along the road for targets. We'd have a can full of rocks and shoot all the way going to town and back. Then after we got pickups, why we'd stand in the back of the pickup or crouch down on the side and shoot at all those targets as we'd go by. When you'd hit a tin can or bust a bottle, you know going quite fast in the car, why you'd holler and shout, "I got 'em." That was kind of our amusement things that we had. Probably kids today listen to music or watch TV when they're traveling, but that was the only thing we had to pass the time away.

Elaine: That probably made the trip a lot faster.

Vee: We hauled water from the canals in ten gallon cans. We'd have to take our milk buckets and dip that water up and fill these cans to help our dad fill the cans. A lot of the time we just had the team and the wagon. It would be like maybe a half mile to go to a canal to get water. If we were going to do it in the summer time we always had to go early in the morning because dad always said the Indians get up and bathe in the creek and wash their clothes in the creek. So, that's what we did.

When we moved back from Roosevelt to the house, Uncle Dales place on the hill above Victory Park, they came then and built cisterns. They helped the people get cisterns from Farmers Home. They built these big cisterns and then they put a pump on the inside of the house that you could pump the water in to a pan out of this cistern. We had water delivered from Vernal. They'd bring a big water tank over and fill it for us. It didn't cost very much. That was a lot nicer than canals. We had to be really careful with the water. If you heated it on the stove in the big number three tubs, we usually had a smaller tub to heat the water on the stoves, and then you bathed in those number tree tubs. The little children got to bathe first because they were little and then the big ones had to bathe last. There would usually be at least two or three children bathe in that tub of water. Then, mother always saved the water to mop the floors with. We were always mopping floors because we had a lot of children around and not much grass so we had a lot of work to do that way, sweeping and mopping the floors to make sure they were clean. Almost every day it seemed like we were mopping the floor, but you did save the bath water, because that saved on the water.

Lyle: When we moved up to Deep Creek there to the ranch, why we'd had to haul water all the time when we lived down around Lapoint, but when we got up there we had a spring and there was a stream of water right by the house. Us kids played in the water the first year we was up there. We hadn't seen that much water. We'd float things and sticks and boats down the little stream and run down and get them and then take back and put them in again. That was one of our pass times. When Vee mentioned about washing on the scrubbing boards, didn't you use scrubbing boards?

Vee: We used scrubbing boards in Bennett and it was in Ballard when we got the gas washer. That was the wringer type. More than once my hands would get caught in the wringer. We would be stopping it and then we'd back it up so our hands would roll back out. Sometimes we'd just try to pull them out and that would really hurt. We was glad we had that washer rather than the washing board. Our parents made their own soap. They saved the lard from the pigs and rendered out and they used lye in it. That helped clean the clothes. I can't remember what else was in it.

Lyle: Washing on the board reminds me of when I got to be a pretty good cowboy when I was just a youngster because that's about all I done was ride a horse and herd the cows and learn to rope them and everything. Some of my uncles were only about ten or twelve years older than me. When I was still pretty little, probably ten or twelve, they'd hire me to drive their cows clear up to the forest from Lapoint. Then they had some pastures up towards Whiterocks. They'd get me started and then it was my job to take them clear on to the pasture or the forest. I remember one time I was taking them up by kind of past Tridell and it was hot and cows got thirsty so I let them go to canal to get a drink. I got off and took a big drink of water and let my horse have a drink and I thought, 'that don't taste too good.' I kept pushing the cows on up along the canal and I got just a little ways farther up there and there was a big ledge rock that kind of come off the hill and went right down into the edge of the canal. There was about four or five Indian squaws there and they were washing their diapers and there clothes and they'd rub them on that rock. Then they'd sop them in the water and then rub the messy out on the rocks and stuff and then just let it go on down the canal. That's why it didn't taste too good.

Vee: But we sure like to get a drink as soon as you'd get to like the rivers up like Whiterocks River, or even to the canals if you could, you like to just lie on your stomach and put your face down in the water and let it run over your face and just try to drink that water. It just tasted so good. After it had been in the cans a while it wouldn't be as good. We'd have to use those milk cans to pack the water in and then we also had to, when we milked the cows, that's how we filled up those cans with milk. Then when the milk man would come along to pick up the big ten gallon cans, he'd usually leave us one or two to replace them with. So, then we'd go for the water to bring back to bring our laundry with, we called it washing all the time.

Lyle: When I was telling you about driving those cows from my uncles, why quite often it would be dark or sundown, you know before I'd get them clear to the forest or Whiterocks and then I'd

have to ride clear home to Deep Creek. It would get dark but the horse knew the way. A lot of times I would just hang on unless we come to a gate or something, why then I'd have to get off and open the gate. Sometimes it would be midnight by the time I'd get home on my horse after driving the cows. The old horse was pretty tired and I imagine I probably was too. But, I really loved it.

Vee: His mother always said he'd do anything to get out of milking a cow. I always said that's why he married me was because I used to milk cows. I learned how to milk when I was eight and nine years old because I would trade, my older sister Jenny, she had to milk, and I would trade her my house hold duties, and that's how I learned to milk. Then, I always thought I was big enough to turn the separator but I found out that you had to be stronger and taller and just bigger all the way around to turn that separator. After we were married I was wishing I'd never learned.

Lyle: Kind of one of the judges of how good of a cow milker you were was how much foam you got on the top of the bucket. If you really milked fast, why there'd be quite a bit of foam on the top of the bucket. Vee could get about an inch or inch and a half of foam on the bucket. Most people would just get a little bit. She was a champion cow milker.

Vee: I could milk six or seven at a milking. That's why I have such big hands. But I wanted to learn and I liked outdoors, so I liked to go out and be out and do things and even tromp the hay. Having two older sisters, Donna would rather read her book, sneak off and hide and read it. Jenny was the one that got the worst of it. She was my oldest sister. Farm life was fun. I too herded cows until I got so I couldn't stand the heat and had a lot of nose bleeds. So I got so where I didn't have to go out and herd the cows.

My brother just younger than I was, was always sickly so he didn't have to do much. He was never strong enough to milk a cow at that time when I was home. I felt like he grew and became stronger after I left because he had some medical problems and mother and dad let my aunt and uncle in Idaho take him for a summer and get him extra special care. He got so he got over that. He came stronger, and soon he grew taller than I was and still is.

Elaine: Let's talk about what you did after high school. We want to talk about your courtship and any interesting stories about that.

Lyle: We talked about the rodeo queen in Lapoint and Bennett, but it started the year before that. He wanted to take me home from the dance and we had a few dates. Then he went back to school. We didn't do anything until the next summer. I had other boy friends and I was having a ball in high school when I was a junior. It was during the Buckaroo Park Rodeo that he asked me for a date to the dance that night. Then we had several dates after that, usually once or twice a week. Then, Lyle went off to school up to Logan. I know his dad had a black pickup truck. I thought that was the prettiest truck, so I thought they really had a lot more money than we ever



thought of having at our house. Then, I thought it was neat to be dating a college student. I just felt good about it.

Lyle: When I went to Alterra High School, I was active in the FFA and that. When I graduated I was only seventeen in 1946. I had a strong desire to go to college and I was too young to go on a mission and my mother encouraged me to go to college because none of our family on either side had ever gone a way to college, so she encouraged me and she told me that she would take care of my little sheep herd and cow herd that I had started by then, and help me all she could. So I worked hard and I got a scholarship through the Sears and Robuck Foundation to attend Utah State Agriculture College, was what it was called then. Now it's Utah State University. I'd went to Logan I found a room that I could rent where we could board, you know, cook our own meals. They called it the Cracker Box. There was probably about ten different small rooms there with two boys to each room. You had two bunks and a little kitchen you kind of shared with the next room. I was able to get by pretty reasonable because I knew my parents didn't have very much money to help me out. I was really homesick and lonesome when I went up there away from my family and I was only seventeen years old. The people that we rented from, their names was Arch and Julie McKennon. They got to be my second parents and really took me under their wing. I thought so much of Julie that when we finally had a daughter, why we named her Julia. Arch has let me take his horse to ride because that was probably the thing that I missed most was my horse and my dog when I got up there to college. He let me take his horse and ride it.

The other thing that I really missed was being able to go deer huntin' and that when I was up there. I couldn't afford to come home. Arch had an old rifle that he had retired and put away that was kind of rusty and that, but he said, "Well, if you want to get your license, why you can borrow this old rifle here." It was just a single shot rifle so I borrowed it and went with some of my buddies that were going to go hunting. We went out towards Hyrum and I walked up on top of a little hill just as it was daylight. Nobody thought I could get one because I just had that old rusty rifle that was single shot. I just got on top of that hill and here come a big ole buck just barreling right towards me. I just waited until he got right just about to me and then let him have it. I was the only one out of the bunch, including Arch my landlord, that got a deer the first day. So, I was feeling pretty good about that.

Vee: We called him Eagle Eyes.

Lyle: I was kind of fortunate that I got in this Cracker Box house with a bunch of returned missionaries. Most of them were returned missionaries. They'd been in the service during World War II. They were four or five years older. Most of them was going to college on the GI Bill, where the government would pay the veterans that had been in the war, they'd pay their tuition and pay them so much a month if they would go to school to get trained for a vocation. So, I got really good friends with some of those guys. They really helped me out a lot.

After a few months of college I realized that my funds I had saved up wasn't going to last me all year. It got a job kind of like a Burger King, one of those places they cooked hamburgers

and fries. I would do that on the evenings and then on Saturdays and Sundays except when I went to church.

Vee: Was Jack Jenkins in that same Cracker Box with you?

Lyle: For awhile, then he went to live with Dick Blunt.

I wasn't happy with that job and I was looking around and my college professors up there, I told them that I needed a job and they found me a job taking care of the experimental animals up there, at Utah State University. After awhile they got so they trusted me and they just turned the whole animals and experiments over to me and knew I'd take care of them. I'd go up there before school and after school and mix the rations and prepare the experiment, and clean the pens and all that kind of stuff and by the time Vee and I got married I was in charge of some of the experiment animal. I was working about forty hours a week besides carrying about twenty credits of college so I was pretty busy.

One of the experiments that they had me doing was when the DDT first came out. They found out it was really good to spray alfalfa for the insects and stuff like that but they didn't know if it might have detrimental effects for animals like dairy and pigs and cattle to eat that hay that had been sprayed. We would have probably twenty four pens and then there would be one animal would get three pounds of sprayed hay in his ration of a hundred pound mixed with ninety-seven pounds of grain to make up a complete ration. The next one would be six pounds and twelve pounds and twenty four, and thirty six, an increase gradually. Then there would be a control animal, one that got regular hay. I'd feed these animals out until they got ready to be butchered. Then we'd take them butcher them and take hams and the bacon and we would feed it to mice to see if it affected the mice anyway. Some of those that would get as high as thirty pounds of that sprayed hay in their diet would have some detrimental effects so they came up with some guidelines for farmers to feed hay that had been sprayed with DDT to their animals.

All the control animals, why we would butcher them out and sell them to the local meat markets, grocery stores and everything, but the ones that had the DDT, why we'd use as much of it as we could to feed the mice and experiment animals and the rest of it I'd just haul it to the dump and dump it off. I'd ask my professors if that only had three pounds or six pounds out of a hundred pounds, would it hurt you. He said, "No, probably ninety-nine percent chance not." I said, "Well, can I have some of those hams and bacon that's only a sight amount." They said, "Sure." So Vee and I ate a lot of ham and bacon from some of those experiment animals.

Vee: Not that much. We ate deer meat too.

Elaine: It sounds like you did really well in college. You became really educated on agriculture.

Vee: He had straight A's after we got married.

Lyle: The first year I had some B's and C's and I realized that I'm not in high school now. You got to work. I learned how to study and how to tell what kind of questions the professors was going to ask.

Vee: He kept track of every penny we spent. When we were married he had a notebook and he had accounted for every penny he had spent while going to school whether it was for registration, books, expenses going and coming with someone else or riding the bus, what he ate, every penny right to the penny was in that notebook.

Elaine: Did you keep that?

Vee: I doubt it. I think we kept it for a long time but I was impressed with that. So, I don't keep records because I can't do them perfect like he does. He still keeps really good records.

Lyle: We'd bring a lot of fruit and vegetables, canned and fresh and bottled meat, and potatoes and stuff from home so about all we had to buy was a little lettuce and milk and a few things.

Vee: Five dollars a week when we were married.

Lyle: To get by on. We kind of learned some habits that helped us so we could get a head you know when we finally got through school and on our own.

Vee: We were married the one year, the last year of his college.

Elaine: Should be back up and talk about your courtship and engagement?

Vee: It was the summer, it would have been in 1948 when we first started dating and then he went school the latter part of September. He did come home to deer hunt. We had been writing letters back and forth. I'd just get home from school and I'd ask mother, "Do I have any mail today." They would hide it some times on his letters. "No, you didn't get a letter today." Then they would go fish it out and give it to me. That was always fun to get a letter or at least one letter a week and sometimes two a week because he had a lot of studies to do.

Then he came home for deer season and he went deer hunting on Saturday and that night he came down to see me. I think we went to a movie and then on the way home during our visiting he asked me if I would accept a ring at Christmas time and become engaged. Of course I accepted. Then he went back and I didn't dare tell my mother or didn't dare tell anyone we were going to become engaged at Christmas time.

Then he came back for Thanksgiving and he ate Thanksgiving dinner with my family in Bennett. We were back up in Bennett. Then we went to the holiday dances together. It seems like it was Victory Park. Then he went back to school and I couldn't wait for him to come home at Christmas time. In the meantime we were courting by letter. I was so excited to see him when he

came home for the holidays because he would be home for two weeks. His parents were real good about letting him take their truck to come to Bennett and pick me up. We went to some high school things and I remember we used to have dances that we called the senior dances and it was called the Senior Hop. It was a formal affair like the girls wear long dresses and the boys wear ties and coats or sweaters. We were engaged that night. He had the ring. Lyle why don't you tell about picking out the ring? He did ask me to go with him and I didn't think that I should because I might want a more expensive ring than what he could afford.

Lyle: When we were dating, it was about the time when she was the most popular girl in the school and a sweetheart queen. But anyway I was kind of worried that she might find somebody else so I was kind of anxious to get her tied up if I could.

Vee: Kids got married young in those days.

Lyle: When she said, why she'd take a ring, why I didn't have much time to look up there in Logan so when I came home, why I borrowed my dad's truck. There was my friends there in Lapoint. I think they missed the bus or something, anyway they was wanting a ride over to Roosevelt. I didn't want anybody to know what I was doing, but anyway they rode over there and I ditched them somewhere and went to the Sather's Jewelry to see if I could find a ring. I don't know how I figured out the size.

Vee: But it fit.

Lyle: Anyway, I was in there and really a lookin' these rings over and trying to figure out what I could afford and what the prettiest and all that and here these buddies come in there and smiles on their faces. "Oh, what you goin' do, buy Vee a ring?" So that kind of let the cat out of the bag.

Vee: Tommy Hacking that was married to Dixie down here. He lived at Deep Creek so Lyle and Tommy were pretty good buddies. He said, "I know, I know, what's going to take place." I remember that night of the dance he came down and picked me up and then we went to Roosevelt to pick up the corsage that he had ordered for me. I think it was Garden Gate over there too that the Nelsons had, and later came to Vernal. But, he didn't give me the ring until we got up to the Alterra High School. We got ready to go into the dance and then he pulled the ring out and showed it to me and placed it on my finger. We went into the dance and we know more got through the door and his buddies just surrounded us, Jay Murray, Joyce, Laurence, and Melda, and Tommy and them just surrounded and said, "Let's look, let's look. We know you've got a ring." That was kind of an exciting night. But I didn't show my mother when I got home.

Elaine: How long until you showed her?

Vee: The next day. My big sister Donna blabbed.

Elaine: “Vee’s got a ring” (We all laugh)

Vee: Tell about Jay Murray rooming in with you up to Logan.

Elaine: Jay Murray’s a local person?

Vee: Yes he lived inWhiterocks.

Lyle: Later they moved over here and they lived right where Cody Jenkins lives. It’s the Jenkins corner.

Elaine: It used to be called the Murray Corner.

Lyle: That’s where he lived there. He was one year younger than me in school, but he wanted to go up to Utah State and so I didn’t have a roommate lined up then because my other one had wanted to go with his missionary buddy that he had been on a mission with. We decided to go up there. He worked for Pudge Merkley’s dad and Eddie Merkley’s dad, Tubby, hauling hay and he told old Sid that for hauling hay he wanted a case of beer. One of our dads hauled us up there with all our stuff and we took a lot of bottled meat and fruit and vegetables and potatoes and about everything we could get to live on as much as we could. When we got kind of unpacked and his dad left, who ever took us up there, why Jay pulled out his case of beer and he said, “Well, I’m up here on my own now. I’m going to have a party.” I was a little surprised and I said, “Well, Jay we told Julie,” that’s the landlord. I said, “that we didn’t drink or smoke or do things like that.” I said, “Besides, we both hold the Aaronic Priesthood at least.” After I talked to him awhile, why he said, “Well, if that’s the way you feel it about it, I’ll take it out and dump it in the garbage can.” I said, “I believe that might be a good idea.” So he did and later on in our lives, why he got to be a Bishop and a Stake President and a Patriarch. He was real successful in his profession. He got to be dean of agriculture at Oklahoma State University. He calls me up about once a year. His family lives here and he’ll come and he’ll say, “Well, I sure want to thank you for getting me headed straight.” He said, “I would have been one of the worst outlaws if you hadn’t took me under your wing.” I said, “Oh, you was alright. You just needed a little direction.”

We’ve been good buddies. He married one of Vee’s friends a year or two after that.

Vee: When his mother-in-law died though, his boys were in Roosevelt to the funeral. We hadn’t met accept Jamie, he was born up to Logan and that was their first baby, Joyce and Jay’s, but he wanted his boys to meet us. He thanked Lyle for helping him get on the straight and narrow.

Elaine: They came in the History Center about a year a go and I met them, a really nice couple.

Vee: She was really talented, Joyce was, like decorating cakes and in that field of artistry. She had a talent that she acquired from her mother. She shared that when they were back before they retired. She doesn't have very good health now. But, they were good friends. That was one good thing that came out of Logan with Lyle going to school. I felt like that he... I know kids like Wayne Haslem, that's Joyce Haslem's brother over there to Bennett, said that Lyle was one of the cleanest and best kids that had ever been raised in Lapoint. Lapoint kind of had a reputation of having rough kids. They sort of were a little bit on the rough side.

Lyle: I couldn't remember for sure in later years if that was a six pack of beer or a case. I ask Jay once, I said, "Well was that a six pack of beer that you had up there." He said, "No, it was a whole case." I told his boys about that and some other experiences that we had and he said, "Dad never did tell us about that."

Vee: They just have boys and no girls, Jay and Joyce did. They even I think adopted some to help kids out.

Lyle: I guess it was between my junior and senior year and she graduated from high school. That was the summer we got married on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Vee: That summer I worked for Highland Dairy wrapping butter. We had the great big cubes and they had the bigger butter cutters down there at Highland Dairy in Roosevelt. I think if I had to I could still go back and wrap those squares of butter by hand. Then we had to package them in the pound boxes. That was an interesting job but it was a job and I saved my money so that I could buy some nicer things for when we got married. He told you about his buddies he went to El Paso with didn't he?

Elaine: Yes.

Lyle: When we first went up there [Logan], why we still didn't have a vehicle. We got by on a bicycle. Of course at home I had a couple of good saddle horses.

Before we got married one other thing that I was wantin' Vee to come up there to our ranch and I wanted to take her on a little tour up Deep Creek. It kind of seemed like to me we took a lunch.

Vee: I thought we were all day getting up there. I had never been on such a long ride. Well it was fourteen miles from Lapoint up to the ranch.

Vee: The roads were dirt and rough and vehicles weren't as good. It probably took us an hour to drive fourteen miles.

Lyle: She thought it was a long way and then I let her ride my Old Flicka mare and I had another one that I was riding and we went for a little tour. We stopped up there by a spring or a pretty little grassy place and kind of talked about our future.

Vee: Oh the wood ticks. I had never had wood ticks on me before. I could feel things crawling. I'd pull my pant leg up and he said, "Well those are wood ticks." I had them all over me.

Lyle: They just gravitate to her. They never did bother me but I guess where we stopped there'd been a bunch of them and they all crawled on her. I figured she was going to back out then.

Vee: I remember we got back to the house, we'd been gone a couple hours, it was June and it was beautiful up there. I remember they had the big wooden porch on the south side of the ranch house. We were sitting out there and I think ----- and his mother had fixed us an early evening meal because we were going to Whiterocks then to see my sister and her husband that lived up Whiterocks Canyon. I could feel these things crawling on me again. I was making a big deal about it. I think his mother wished that it would be big enough deal that I wouldn't marry him.

Lyle: Oh no, she loved you.

Vee: She was afraid we'd get married and he wouldn't finish school and she really wanted him to finish school. He also took Institute classes while he was up there too and graduated. But, that was quite a day. I just remember the wood ticks. They always did like me. They would crawl off from him and onto me and he could never have a wood tick when we would ride. Now days, we hardly ever have a wood tick on us. Maybe with all the chemicals in the air and things it's gotten rid them. I still look for wood ticks in the later spring and early summer.

We got over to my sisters that night and it was dark time we got there. He was always taking me on a shortcut somewhere. I thought, 'I'll never get out of here.' We crossed from Deep Creek over to Whiterocks Canyon, and then I got a hold of sister Donna and I said, "Donna, I've got wood ticks. I've had wood ticks on me today and I think I have some more on me." So she took a flashlight and we went in her bedroom. She helped me pick them out. I was glad to get home and have a good bath.

Lyle: She kind of learned how to avoid them after that but they still got on her a few times when we lived up there later on.

Vee: Then you went off to El Paso to Fort Bliss training for the summer.

Elaine: Was that before you graduated from college?

Lyle: Between your junior and senior year you had to go to a summer camp to get extra training for reserve officer. So I had to go down there for six weeks. We had a lot of fun down there. It was just across the border from Juarez Mexico so we'd go watch the bull fights. We took a little tour down through Mexico and got down there where nobody knew any English and we didn't hardly know how to, "No savvy English, no savvy, no savvy."

When you'd drive over there and park there was a lot of these poor Mexican kids that would come and want to shine your shoes and shine your car and everything for a quarter. They just worked for a couple hours for a quarter to shine everything up. They was always around. I remember on time there was one that, they had a little bottle with there money in and I figured I didn't have very much money. One time they wanted to do it for a quarter and I only had five dollars change. I said, "I only got a five dollar bill on me." "Oh, I make a change, I make a change." So he dug out a lot of quarters so he could make change for a five dollar bill.

Vee: I remember when he came back. He'd write me letters too. He still never hardly believed that those guys had stopped at my house on the way until he got that first letter back from me saying, yes, that John and them had stopped there. I thought maybe he would find somebody else and decide to dump me, but he didn't.

I remember he came back from El Paso. It was on a Sunday afternoon. I can still see me running toward him when I saw his car coming down the road. I threw my arms around him and was glad to see him.

More than once he had to help me milk the cows so I could go on a date. If he came and we hadn't planned to go somewhere he'd have to help me. I'd usually be milking cows and he'd come down and help me finish do the separating and then I could go. Usually we had the separated milk we'd feed to the pigs. I had little brothers and sisters, they would take care of the chickens and the eggs but I had to...because my dad and my older brother were gone and my two older sisters were gone by then. So I did have a lot of responsibility at home. Mother left me one time when I was in high school to take care of all the little brother and sisters younger than me when she went up to her dad's funeral. And, they were gone I thought forever. They was probably gone four or five days. But she trusted me enough to do that.

But anyway we had our little date set for the 24<sup>th</sup> of August of 1949.

Lyle: When I was in the service, why if you were with your friends they kind of liked to split you up so you could get better acquainted and have more experience and stuff. I can't remember if it was that time or another time after we was married that I went to Fort Bliss for artillery school.

Vee: That's after we was married.

Lyle: When you'd go in the mess hall to eat, why practically the only thing they had was coffee and a lot of good food, but everybody would drink coffee. I didn't want to drink coffee so I found where there was a hydrant and I'd go over there and pour my coffee out and get me a drink of water. I remember one time I was walking back to the table where my food was and one of the



other guys said, “What have you got in that cup Taylor?” I says, “Water.” He said, “Don’t you know that will rust your guts.” They was all making fun of me and stuff. When you’re in a group like that you want to be well thought of by your peers because you’re probably going to be in fox holes together where you depend on each other and everything. They nicknamed me ‘rusty gut’. I didn’t appreciate it but I just accepted it. I thought a few times that I ought have been ahead just a bit if I poured a lot of cream and sugar in that coffee and drank it. Later on, why some of those guys told me how much they respected me for not using tobacco and coffee and things. I was glad that I stuck with what I’ve been taught and held the Priesthood then and tried to make the best of it.

Vee: Back in our day they didn’t have what they called receptions. They had a shower the afternoon of the wedding. They had wedding dances. They had a really nice shower for me. This was after we had been married. I remember they took all the napkins and made me a wedding dress out of napkins. People would bring their little girls to the showers too. That was a fun time for the shower part.

Lyle and I didn’t have a vehicle so my dad and mother and some of my younger siblings were going to go early in to Salt Lake. And, he didn’t know it, and this was on a Sunday. So we had to go to Lapoint and wait for him to come from Deep Creek to come down to Lapoint because it was their Stake Conference. He was going over to get his Temple Recommend signed that Sunday. So I had to meet with him. I remember we drove up on the Lapoint hill there and set and talked for awhile. Then I left with my folks and went into Salt Lake. It was the longest drive. There was about four or five of us two deep in the back seat of the car.

Lyle didn’t come until I think Tuesday. We were to be married on Wednesday. My aunts decided they would have a shower for me out there to my Aunt LaMars place. We had a nice shower that night and Lyle said he remembers being there to the shower and he had his mom. I think his dad was over visiting with my dad while the women all had the shower. It was nice to receive some nice gifts. While mother and I had been in Salt Lake before the wedding we had gone shopping for me to make sure I had a nice house coat and new shoes and some new clothes to be married in.

I remember I was so excited, we stayed with our grandparents, mother and dad. It seems like my oldest sister took the little kids and took care of them while we went to the Temple to be married. We started out and I had forgotten my suitcase that had my wedding dress in it. I remember we had to go back and get it. So, it made us a little bit later. He thought I wasn’t coming.

I can remember back in those days you wore little hats all the time. If you were dressed properly you wore a hat and you had gloves and a purse and they kind of matched. But, when I got to the Temple they asked me to please to remove my hat. I think it was the last time I ever wore a hat.

It was a long day. I thought we would never get through the Endowment part of the Temple and be able to finally get married and come back out and be by ourselves.

He had come out with his parents in their truck with his two sisters. What hotel did you stay in Lyle?

Lyle: I don't know, probably a cheap one. We knew our parents were making a lot of sacrifice to get us started as good as they could for what little money they had. We decided we'd splurge a little bit and go to the Newhouse Hotel. It was one of the nicest hotels in Salt Lake.

Vee: They had the Coconut Grove Dance Floor. It was there or nearby.

Lyle: I think it was nearby. It had probably fifteen stories of rooms. When we came back from Logan we stayed at Hotel Utah and went up to the very top was the Starlight. It seemed like the cheapest thing you could buy was about ten dollars and we was kind of on a budget. So we just had a cheap sandwich of some kind.

Vee: It was still five or six dollars. You could look out over and see Temple Square and the lights. It was so beautiful to be up there.

But we did stay at the Newhouse Hotel the first night, then my parents, who ever thought of going on a honeymoon with your parents, they took us to Logan, because they were going on to Idaho to see my mother's mother and her sister and two brothers. They left us at Logan, and I can't remember the hotel that we stayed in, but it was right by the Bluebird Café there in Logan, which was a popular eating place. Have you heard of the Bluebird Chocolates. That's where Ruth Walker, Don Walkers wife, she came from Logan and she learned how to make these chocolates up at the Bluebird. That's how the Walkers got started making chocolates and selling them here in Vernal in later years.

Lyle wanted to take me there and eat. He taught me how to order because I didn't know how to order food. He took me to a rodeo up there. We got a cab and it took us to the fairgrounds. Our big objective to go up there was to find us a place to live. It seems like we could ride street cars then. We looked in the paper for apartments in the paper first and couldn't find anything so we went up on campus. I remember my feet ached because I think we walked from campus down town. That was like two miles. Here I was in a dress.

Lyle: She had a pair of heels on.

Vee: I think I had a pair of flats on, but oh you still got really really tired. They had the big ----- Huts that was metal. Some of them use them for storage buildings now for their farm machinery. Well, those were into Apartments, but those were all filled because GIs had the first rights to get into those, the veterans did. We finally found, there was a trailer park up there. We found a little trailer to rent. We rented that. When we went back up, oh it was a mess to clean. It was so dirty and so dirty. I scrubbed and scrubbed on it. But, it looked pretty homey for a while and then when as the winter came on it was cold and we were able to find us another apartment.

Vee: Then we had to get back to Salt Lake. We were going to go on a bus but he ran into an old buddy.

Lyle: He was going down there so he decided he would give us a ride and take us right where we wanted to go and we was kind of pinching pennies. We was trying to save us up enough money to have us a vehicle. All we had was this bicycle to get around with to begin with. We would go to town, why Vee would sit on the handle bars and I would pump her. Then we would go up the hill to college to some of the things. We walked to the Temple, it wasn't that far.

Vee: Going back to our Wedding Dance. We didn't know you had to have reservations when we first got married, but Hotel Utah was full. So it was a little walk to the Hotel Newhouse. But I had stayed there quite a bit with the FHA. When we went back to Salt Lake, he had arrangements made and we stayed in the Hotel Utah. That one afternoon we had the sandwich up at the Starlight Café. It was just early evening because the lights were on. I think the next night, and here we don't have a vehicle and we walked two or three blocks South and come to what looked like quite a nice café. We had a nice meal and he went to reach in his pocket to pull his wallet out to pay for the meal and he had no wallet. So, I stayed there and he went back up to the motel.

Lyle: She had to stay there for security because they didn't know us ya know and I told them I had to go back to get my billfold. They was afraid I might just disappear. So they kept her there for security that I'd come back. In all the excitement I left my billfold in the hotel in my other pants or something.

Vee: I know when he came back I was so glad to see him, not knowing a soul. We were glad to get back up in our hotel room that night. I think that was Saturday night and then on Sunday my parents came and picked us up. We came back to Roosevelt with them. In the meantime my dad and mother wanted to see his brothers and sisters that lived out there so we had to stop on our honeymoon with them and see all my dad's brothers and sisters. By the time we got to Roosevelt it was getting almost dark.

Lyle had the responsibility, because his parents had gone out of town for a reunion, they had left him the truck, because they were going to get a ride back to Lapoint with somebody. Anyway, by the time we got to Deep Creek it was dark and he said, "Well I got to go round the cows up because I still got the cows to milk and separating to do." I was kind of a little bit afraid and I say, "Well, I'll go with you." He says, "No I don't want you to go with me." But I insisted on getting a pair of blue jeans on and my older shoes and went down through the field. I thought it was forever, but it wasn't, and we rounded up the cattle and brought them up to the corral and I think I even helped him milk the easier ones. We got the separating done and took care of everything. We finally got to go to bed, it seems like it was really, really late. The next morning he let me sleep in and he rounded up the cows again.

Lyle: I get to tell you about the breakfast. We always raised a big garden up there and we raised potatoes and vegetables and a little sweet corn and stuff. We always had a big potato patch because we had a big cellar that was cool in the summer and warm in the winter. We could keep potatoes and vegetables year round. It was kind of customary to pick a little bucket full while you was there, enough to last.

Vee: Like a number eight milk bucket, about that big.

Lyle: Enough to last for two of three meals or so. My cousins had told Vee, "You're going to be surprised how much it takes to fill Lyle up. He likes to eat." Because you know I'd been to their place and my aunts would cook real good dinners when we ate to their house.

Vee: It was Elaine Woolley, she could feed you a line of how much he could eat, and Beulah Nyberg.

Lyle: So I went out and we had chickens and eggs and homemade bread but I went out and while I was digging these potatoes, why I dug a little bucket full and brought them in the house. And, Vee I guess she was thinking about how much I that could eat so she assumed that I wanted the whole bucket cooked so she got a great big frying pan about that big and she cooked a whole frying pan full of potatoes and eggs just for us two. We had probably enough fried potatoes to last for about a week.

Vee: At my home when you cooked fried potatoes there was so many of us that we had two big frying pans full of fried potatoes with eggs. Those girls had told me how much Lyle could eat. He'd eat a whole pie and all these potatoes that he could eat. They just really laid it on. So, I thought, 'Well, he probably wants all these cooked.'

Lyle: When we got married there was about ten of you wasn't there?

Vee: No, I'm number four. Gale wasn't home all the time; he wasn't married, Sandra wasn't born. That left eight.

Lyle: So when they cooked, they had to cook a lot of food for a meal. It took her a little while for her to get adjusted to just two of us. It didn't take that much. But we laughed and joked about it and kidded each other.

Vee: We still do.

Lyle: I used to help her cook, set the table and get things ready.

Vee: We got to stay, his parents lived at the ranch in the summer time. They had also a home down there in Lapoint. But, they let us stay in their home for two weeks, after we were married we stayed in their home. I remember, his mom asked me to set some jello, and I forgot, because she was cooking for the hayers or threshers, or what ever they were doing that week. They would take turns helping the neighbors and I forgot to set the jello. I remember I felt like she was really upset with me because I hadn't set the jello for dinner. But anyway, I apologized. I was used to getting dinner for big groups of hay men.

Beulah and Aunt Faun just lived a little ways from us. They taught me how to do the apricot jam their way because Lyle likes it their way. Aunt Faun was always known to be the best cook. They really helped me out. One night they came to chivalry us. We escaped these young kids.

Lyle: Katherine Ann came to spy on us to make sure we was there. Anyway we gave her the slip and hid down in Deep Creek. They couldn't find us. So then they was all that more determined to get us so they'd spy on us and make sure that we were home. Then, they'd have this whole group come and they'd do all kinds of stuff.

Vee: It was married couples that come the second time.

Lyle: Put sugar in your bed.

Vee: Wheat and husks...

Lyle: Then they'd take you and some would take the boy somewhere for the night and some would take the girl somewhere else for the night and you didn't know where each other was or what was going on or nothing. You had to promise to give a dance and pay for an orchestra and a hall and have a dance for everybody. And didn't they have another kind of a shower then.

Vee: Yes, that's when they had the shower. Lyle had brought me back from Juarez a little bottle of perfume because I never remembering of only maybe having one little cologne my growing up years. But, he brought this back, this Chanel 5, and it's still a real popular perfume today and it's very expensive. I thought that was just the neatest thing to get that bottle of perfume and they'd taken that and dumped nearly all of it out around on the bed. I felt so bad. But, that's one of the things that he would almost always do, would buy me another bottle, they're just little small bottles. I think about the last one he bought was about a hundred bucks. That was kind of our special remembrance of him being in El Paso and buying this perfume and bringing it back to me. I thought that was just really, really good. I appreciated it because I never had a lot of gifts given to me. So I really appreciated that.

We did give the dance. The day of our dance they had the shower. My girl friend, Madge Winn, that I was acquainted with the Future Homemakers came out from Sandy. She had gone on this trip back to Kansas City with the Future Homemakers. She was the president of the State

then. I was one of the vice-presidents. We picked her up in Roosevelt, my sister and I did because they had come out. [her sister]. Lyle's mother said my sister and her husband could stay there at the house.

Then, they announced that there wouldn't be any electricity that night and we had Reynolds Orchestra hired. They had their steel guitars. Of course they had their other instruments. But they cut it down to where I think there was only about four or five of them that came. Then, they had lanterns, people brought lanterns, and the aladin lamps and had them set all over the cultural hall and we still had our dance that night. That was a lot of fun. A lot of our friends would ask you to dance, you know, make Lyle share.

Usually when you'd go to dances you had the first dance with who you went with and then everybody else liked to dance with you, they would switch around. They'd just take you back to a line of chairs. But they would come and tap us on the shoulder and say, "Lyle, I need the next dance." So he let them dance with me. Then they kind of had a little intermission. We didn't have anything to eat but the orchestra needed a rest.

Lyle: I think I only got to dance with her two or three dances all night, she was so popular.

Vee: You danced the first dance, and then the dance after intermission and then you always no matter who you were dancing with go up and tap them on the shoulders and switch partners so you could dance the last dance with them.

But Lyle and I did go to a couple dances at Rainbow Rendezvous. I don't know if it was that first or if it was called Coconut Grove first, a big dance hall. They always had it decorated really nice. It was in Salt Lake City.

So, those were some of our courtship days. Then, after our dance we loaded our stuff up what we needed, and what we didn't went to the ranch to stay. We took what we needed for school off of our wedding gifts and went to Logan. Lyle's dad took us in his pickup. He stayed over night. He slept on the couch. It seems like there was a bed and the kitchen and the bathroom was in the middle and then there was a little living room on the front of that trailer. We soon started looking around though for another apartment.

Lyle: One of my buddies up there had also got married I think the same summer we did. They rented a one story and a basement. They wanted to rent their basement so we rented that. We were good friends and still are with them.

Vee: Jack Madson and Mary Lois Grieves

Lyle: They were from down in Manti. We'd have our dinner and hurry get their studies and our assignments done and then we'd either hit on the ceiling or they'd tromp on the floor that they were ready and we'd get together and play Canasta.

Vee: That's when the big game of Canasta came out was back in the 1940's. It was a challenging game.

We still didn't have a car. We rode the bus from Logan down. My parents moved to Salt Lake in 1949. But we did ride the bus down to Salt Lake City. I worked in J. C. Penney's for two weeks before Christmas to earn a little money. I think that helped pay Lyle's tuition. But with his job, our apartment was \$25. We had \$5 to buy coal with and then we budgeted ourselves to where we had about \$5 per week for food. I wasn't used to a lot. The grocery store was like a block and a half or two away and I would walk to the store during the day time and buy the milk, lettuce and eggs. We brought enough potatoes up to do us from home.

Lyle: Did you make bread then, or did you buy it.

Vee: No, I don't think I made bread. I made cakes and pie. I may have, I was too young. But I probably did learn to make bread that year. We had the coal stove which I was used to using. It provided us heat in the little kitchen area. We just had a shower in the bathroom. I was glad to have that because during my growing up years I never had an indoor bathroom. I just bathed in the round tub, and used the outhouses.

But, these kids up stairs was really nice to us. The Logan Temple was not open at that time. They were remodeling it. They were doing some kind of reconstruction on it. It's kind of on a hill and underneath that hill was where Lyle used to go ice skating. Along in the Spring when it was completed and opened back up we had a car then but we could walk.

In that apartment we lived in the basement, and there was six girls that lived upstairs on the other side and then there was the upstairs on this side. And oh my you knew when they got up because they came tromping down those stairs and all kinds of racket. Our bedroom was under there portion of the area where they lived, but we didn't have a mattress so we slept on the sofa that made down into a bed.

At Christmas time we went down to Salt Lake to be with my parents for Christmas. My brother Gale had just bought a new car, a little Ford. We came to Lapoint to see Lyle's folks with Gale. They were having a big Rook game. That was the big thing in Lapoint those days was the Rook games. The families would all get together and have two or three tables of Rook. Lyle had kind of explained all this to me and what took place. He was trying to teach me how to play Rook and it had to be there way. It wasn't like the rules.

Elaine: It was their rules?

Vee: It was their rules. We got where we called it the Taylor rules. They were really serious about trying to get us to get us a vehicle. There was a Chevrolet place in Vernal, Cheeney's, or I can't remember what it was called. It was kind of like where the Bowling Alley is but just to the east of that.

Elaine: There used to be one there called Allen's Chevrolet. Maybe it had another name too.

Lyle: I had a few cows and sheep and my folks would take care of them and they would give me the money from the ones of mine that were sold. We finally got enough money saved up. Our first little pickup was a little less than \$1,400. We was pretty happy when we finally got that.

Vee: His dad went to Craig to pick it up off of the freight.

Lyle: This was a few years after World War II ended. It was hard to find vehicles. They had been rationed during the war and you couldn't buy anything but a used one. After the war when they finally got started making them, why you had to get on a list and wait and put your money down. You'd finally get it but you couldn't just go in and buy one like you can now. We was pretty proud of that little pickup to have it be our own.

Vee: Your dad went to Craig to pick it up when we were there during the holidays and it wasn't on the train. So, he called back to the Lapoint Bigelow Store, George Bigelow's store had a phone, and he called back and sent a message over to us for us to take their pickup back to Logan and they thought these trucks would be in like in a couple weeks. He said, "I can use my dad's truck." This would be Lyle's granddad's truck. Until this one came in for us. Then they would use our truck until we could bring there's back. It was in the springtime. I think we had their truck up there in Logan at least a couple months before we were able to exchange.

On our way back to Salt Lake going down Parley's Canyon it was treacherous back in those days. It was windy and not very wide. We were having a really good time reminiscing over Christmas and the fun times we've had and Logan and what we were going to do. We had a mattress in the back so we could have a real bed when we got back to Logan. Of course, we went with supplies to tie us over. All of a sudden we hit this real slick spot and we ended off in a snow bank.

Lyle: Black ice all over the highway and they didn't have them sanded. We just kind of went spinning like that and then off in the bar pit. We didn't very seldom see four wheel drives them days, and the back wheels was setting on the black ice. The front end was in the snow. I couldn't pull out of there so I had to get out and I had to shovel. I had to try and find some dry dirt and try to put dirt under it and shovel. We finally got going.

Vee: While we were still parked there was another car came down and it started spinning. I was afraid they was going to hit us.

Lyle: We was afraid when he saw us there right in the road that he would try to break and slide right into us. He got it slowed down and finally made it around us. We was finally able to get it back out. We went pretty slow for the rest of the way down Parley's and finally got there okay.



Vee: When we got to my parents they had a home that they had moved into that the outhouse was still outside. That was one thing that disappointed my mother was that my dad didn't find a house to rent that had an indoor bathroom to it. I remember we went outside and they said, "What's all the snow on the front of your pickup?"

I said, "I don't know." I didn't tell them that we had slid into a snow bank. That was kind of a scary time. The next day we went back up to Logan and Lyle went back to his job and we had our little fun times playing games with the couple upstairs. We had a nice time.

All those girls didn't always like to use their Aggie student body cards, so Lyle would go borrow one of these girl's Aggie cards for me so I didn't have to pay to get in. He did that for football too. We went to the football games. That was our entertainment too. I don't ever remember going to a movie. We were too poor. Basketball, we loved to go to the basketball game. It was just about like Uintah used to have winning teams down here and just about rock the building when you'd win especially if you'd beat Roosevelt. That's about the way the Aggies were. We also, Julie McKinnon and Archie had tickets one time up there for the Berl Ives show. He was a great artist singer. We got to see him in person sing. That was probably one of the highlights of my days up there with Lyle was to see somebody that was really somebody and participate. So that was really neat. Then, honey can you remember another time when Arch and Julie had a supper there for the Iranian students. There was a lot of Iranian students that came over to Utah State because they wanted to learn the agricultural end of it. Can you remember the night that they hosted a dinner and invited us to come.

Lyle: Yeah.

Vee: I can remember when I entered the room they stood up. They acknowledge you kind of like you were a woman. They didn't bow down but they nodded their heads down. Very, very, well mannered and it kind of taught me a lot. Of course we thought a lot of Julie and Arch and they had two boys then. That's all the children.

Lyle: Didn't they have us tend their boys a time or two.

Vee: A time or two we'd go up to the house and tend their boys. They were so, so, good to us. Even later, they even came out to see us. When we moved up Deep Creek they came to see us. The cracker box was just underneath the campus ----- It was kind of like the big hill and it was real steep right there and there was the cracker box. It was a square box. Even the top of it was level. It was square.

Lyle: There ended up being quite a few guys from the Basin that ended staying there after I kind of found the place. Remember Howard Todd that was the Temple president. He served a term as Temple president here in Vernal. He came there and went to college. Lawrence Morrill and quite a few kids from Roosevelt and around that area and came up there and lived there when they were...and Lynn Eldredge, quite a few of them came there and lived while they went to college.

Elaine: So you were there a year after you were married and then you moved back to Deep Creek?

Lyle: Um huh, then I graduated that year and also got my commission as a Second Lieutenant. We were anxious to get back to Deep Creek.

Vee: Let me tell you about Graduation. His mom didn't get to come up there or his dad for his college graduation and I always felt bad about that. I can remember when they had the graduation for the ROTC as Second Lieutenants, and to see those big long lines of those guys that all had their uniforms on. They marched down and came into the area, it seems like it was outdoors.

Lyle: They had a pavilion up there.

Vee: That's where they graduated from the ROTC and I was so proud of him. He looked so sharp in his uniform. He had this uniform that spring, he had to purchase one then. He had his hat and his coat and had the bars on his jacket.

He had sent me a picture for high school graduation and my mother had opened that package I got and she had his picture sitting out on what we called the Victrola where you played records. I remember walking in the house that day and I was on my way to go to the bedroom and there was his picture. I thought he was so handsome in his uniform. That's always been a special picture. I would take it where ever we went. Then he also graduated from Institute, the religious.

Lyle: They had sororities and fraternities and the LDS was called the Lamda Delta Signa, and I belonged to that while I was up there. They didn't have the Priesthood quorums and that like we do in the ward, but they had sacrament meeting and Sunday school at the LDS Institute of Religion. I remember when I was about a sophomore or junior. Our director of the Institute was Brother Richards, his grandpa was the Richards that was with Joseph Smith in the Carthage Jail, and he was a wonderful man and I always thought a lot of him, and anyway they had a lot of returned missionaries and that and they called me to be the superintendent of the Sunday school. I was just about overwhelmed I think that they'd call a little hick boy from Lapoint, Utah to be the superintendent of Sunday school and they had all these other guys to pick from. It was a choice experience that I had when I was up there. I was in charge of all the Sunday school meetings. Then, they had opening exercises in Sunday school. You had prayer and two and a half minute talks and some practice singing and then we'd go to class. I had that organized and did all that and help get the teachers and everybody.

Vee: Tell about when you asked Jay to give a talk.

Lyle: He's the one that got to be a Stake President and a Patriarch and everything. Anyway, I asked him to give a talk.

Vee: I don't think they had air-conditioning.

Lyle: But the windows were open.

Vee: He got up in front to give that talk.

Lyle: He had it all written down word for word what he wanted to say.

Vee: Then the wind came through the window and just blew that talk down into the audience. I think he said he mumbled something and got through it but he said "I was never so scared in my life." Because he said he'd never ever done that before. He also said that was a good learning experience for him.

I was trying to think what else we did up at school. I think we were just kind of busy trying to get Lyle through. I used to go up with him and help him mix the feed and things for mostly pigs that year that we did and help him clean the barn on Saturdays. Sometimes he wouldn't come home from school; he'd just go straight to do his chores, but if it was like a Saturday or a day that he didn't have a lot of homework, why he'd pump me part way back up the hill, because that was a pretty steep hill and then we'd push the bike and I would walk. We didn't know any different, it was just fun, then we'd coast all the way down because it was all down hill. Lyle was a good ice skater when we were up there.

Lyle: We didn't have television and was too poor to go to the movies and other things so up in Logan it was cold and there would be a lot of places where the ice would freeze solid so there was a lot of ice-skating. I finally managed to get me a pair of ice skates. We'd go ice skating pretty near every night and on week-ends and that. I learned to skate real good you know, backwards and frontwards and make circles and spin around and all that kind of stuff.

Vee: I wasn't that good though.

Lyle: I got her to go skating with me. I'd skate backwards and pull her frontwards. We had a lot of fun doing that. It seems like it was cold but they usually had hot chocolate and stuff and nobody really paid much attention to the cold.

Vee: Sometimes you thought you were freezing to death but we'd get each other warm. Then when he graduated from college I bought him a camera. I felt bad because his mom had bought a camera, but when we were home during spring break, she wouldn't tell us what she'd got him. I didn't know what she had him for a college graduation gift, so I had bought a camera for us and I gave it to him before graduation day because we were going to make a little trip to

Idaho to see my grandmother that was up there. She was up in her eighties and I wanted to see her and my Aunt Geneva and Uncle Art and Uncle Wayne and Uncle Ralph and Aunt May. They all lived there in Pocatello.

Then we visited grandpa's grave while we were up there and I wanted to take pictures so I gave him his early graduation present and we sent word home that I had got him a camera and that we'd opened it because I wanted to take some pictures of graduation. She always felt really bad because that's what she wanted to give him. We could have kept two but she said, "No." I think she bought it from Montgomery Ward and she sent back and we bought a radio that was inside of a record player. We had a record player in those days and used batteries and then there was a radio in it. And you didn't play the radio a lot because it would run the battery down so you would just listen two or three times a day to it. We did buy a record or two and one of our favorite records was the Tennessee Waltz that was a popular like Guy Lombardo Orchestra. We did get to listen to some and dance to some of the big name bands that would come in Salt Lake.

Lyle: We've got some of our wedding pictures and pictures of me when I was in ROTC and when I was a student and pictures of her and she was so sweet and trim and pretty.

Vee: So slender. My sister borrowed her sister-in-law's veil and we went into the Darling Studio, this was when we were still on our honeymoon, and had our wedding pictures taken in Salt Lake. I always appreciated that. Then, she brought the veil out so I could wear it that night of our wedding dance. She had worn it, and then I wore it and several others had worn this beautiful veil. I felt like I was real special to be able to have the privilege of wearing that veil or else I wouldn't have had one to wear to the dance. That was a special time that Jenny and Bill came. We were always really close to them.

It seems like when we came back from Logan one time I was driving. I got my drivers license also while I was in Logan. I can remember I had to take the written test and then I took the driving test and he told me to stop. I was looking in the mirrors and everything and then I stopped. He said, "No, when I say stop, I mean stop." I think it took me three times to get the stop right. He said, "What if a child was out in front of you and you took that long to stop, you'd run over that child and killed it." I've never forgotten that.

So I was real happy to finally have a legal driver's license. I can't remember if we had gone down to Salt Lake or if this was the final go home bit. I said to him, "We're okay, there's nothing wrong with our vehicle. Pass that patrolman." The minute we passed the lights came on and he said we had taillight that was out. He just gave us a warning on that to get that fixed the next chance we had.

We loaded up our stuff and headed for Salt Lake to tell my parents goodbye and went on to Lapoint. They were all excited to see us. He was graduated. His mom was really good to me.

Elaine: Did you live in Deep Creek?

Vee: We moved to Deep Creek then.

Elaine: Did you live in the home that you grew up in Lyle?

Lyle: Um huh.

Elaine: So your parents lived in Lapoint then and so you lived in their ranch in Deep Creek?

Lyle: We lived up there in the summer time and then moved to Lapoint so we could go to school. My grandpas on both sides of the family and some of my uncles ran herds of range sheep up in that area and lambed them up there and I would go and gather the bum lambs and take them and raise them and my mother and my sister would feed 'em when I was going to gather more of them and that. We finally about ran dad out of the cow business because we had so many sheep. So, we finally sold them to a guy from Colorado named Lowell Brady. We got enough money for them to buy a home and some acreage in Lapoint there. Then, my dad finally bought part of his dad's homestead and we finished paying for the ranch up in Deep Creek and they let us have that. That's how come we got that and we've had it ever since and added acreage and forest permits and leased ground and stuff so can run quite a herd of cows.

Vee, tell about when you first found out you were expecting.

Vee: I had to go to a doctor in Logan and I did have a few medical problems and he got that all cleared up. We wanted to have checkups before we came back to Vernal because in those days there was Dr. Eskelson, Dr. Seager, and Dr. Spendlove. They were all in the same clinic. Everybody would sit in there. They didn't make appointments. I didn't want everybody knowing my business because if you were ever in the doctor's office and newly married they figured you were pregnant for sure, then that would get spread around and back in Lapoint before you got home. We finally expected our first baby and we were excited about that.

We were living in Deep Creek and when it rained Lyle warned me, he said, "If you're in Lapoint, don't try to go home because you can't get home. The roads are too muddy and slick and you'll get stuck." Sometimes we'd think, well the roads will be dried out and so we'd head home and you'd have to brush. That means pull the sage brush and put it underneath the tires to get a little traction to move on. We didn't have chains that first summer. I think we bought chains, it was a green pickup, and used them sometimes in the winter time when the snow was deep because they didn't grade those out until the last thing.

But we did enjoy living up there. We would go down to church on Sundays and usually have dinner with his parents and his sisters, the two of them. I know I was making baby dresses and little night gowns, embroidering on them and crocheting on them, because that's what you did back in those days. You'd crochet around baby blankets. You'd buy flannel and make all of your own baby things. So I was pretty proud of the baby things which I had made to prepare for our new baby.

Lyle: Lamoyne was born in February and so we were expecting during the winter of 1951. There was a lot of snow that winter. They would just grade one track, wide enough for one vehicle up there because they didn't have very good equipment. Some they even had to pull with horses. Anyway, they had one track made for the road, and we'd been to Lapoint, but we were coming home and there was one place where you go around the bend. It was just wide enough for one vehicle and as we came around the bend another guy come around right at the same time and we both put on the brakes but we just kept going and hit bumpers.

Vee: Your side was all bent in down your side and here I am pregnant.

Lyle: Vee was expecting and it was probably December or January and we was worried it might cause a miscarriage. She was pretty tough and everything went okay. He was born February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Vee: But, we had to move out because the roads were so bad. His dad went to the ranch and stayed to take care of our cattle and to keep the house and the fire and everything going. We stayed down with his mother and the girls gave us their bedroom, bless their hearts. Irene would go in and sleep with their mom and Myrna slept on the couch. We stayed down there two weeks before the baby was born and then we were, it seems like forever after the baby was born, until we could go home. Lyle's dad said it was too cold.

I think we played cards the night before. He came just a couple days early was all. My brother Gale and his wife Kay, they were over there and we were playing Canasta. We were just having such a good time and I didn't feel very good. They went home about midnight and the next morning I said, "I think this is the day." His mom went with us and went to the hospital in Vernal. It was the old hospital, it faced east then. It was new at that time. It was nice. They had four women, four babies, to a ward and you couldn't take your baby only to nurse him to your room. If anybody wanted to see him they had to look through the nursery to see them. You couldn't have more than two to a room to visit with you. But when he was born the doctor didn't tell us.

Lyle: We had Dr. Seager.

Vee: He was a good a doctor but he didn't tell us that Lamoyne had club feet. His little feet was all curled up.

Lyle: They were turned in like this.

Vee: And the toes over the top of each other laid back. Another gal from Lapoint, Ona Bisel Caldwell, she come a skipping in the hospital and she poked her head in there and she said, "Vee, I'm having my baby. I think it's going to come anytime." She hadn't been in there twenty minutes. She had that baby and was back in the room. She said, "Oh I just stopped and had a

piece of pie after I left the doctors office. He told me he could almost see the babies head.” Here Dr. Seager asked me, “Well, you’re not dying, what’s all the fuss about.”

Lyle: He didn’t sympathize with you for nothing.

Vee: No sympathy. “I don’t know what all the fuss is about, you’re not dying.” He said. Anyway, Lyle’s mom was with it and I felt her comfort. When they brought Ona’s baby in to her, you stayed five days then in the hospital. Boy, she unwrapped that baby and she, I think it was their second baby, and she opened those blankets and examined his little body and his little feet. She says, “Vee what does your babies feet look like?” Because when they brought him in then to nurse a little later I said, “I don’t know, I haven’t looked at them.” She said, “Well open up that blanket. Take a look at his feet and examine him really good.” When I did I started to cry. It was the next day when Lyle came over. I can’t remember if I cornered Dr. Seager the next morning, because they’d usually come in at least once or twice a day to check on you. I asked him why he didn’t tell me about his feet. “Oh, they’re just a little crooked.” he said. He says, “I can fix those.” We tried his way and it didn’t work.

Lyle: He put a cast and it would over correct them, but it didn’t straighten them out good.

Vee: I can remember when I couldn’t nurse him. He was only like six weeks old that night. He said, “Don’t you dare nurse that baby or have anything to drink.” And, he cried and cried and cried. I was crying too and Lyle’s mom was crying. The first time they couldn’t do it because then the doctors didn’t show up to do the anesthetic there at the clinic. So we had to go home and I just opened myself up and I started nursing that baby and he gulped that down so fast. He was starving to death. I think Dr. Seager was standing there. He did apologize for that, he said he was sorry. So, then we had to do it again like two weeks later. I can remember having to struggle the whole night tending him. It just about broke our hearts. When they gave him the ether, that baby sucked that in and I thought he was dying. Then finally they made us go out. They had the cast that went down the outside of the foot across the bottom and up on the inside because they were trying to wedge it out. I had those casts for along time. Then he would make new casts and I could take them off to bathe him. Sometimes when he had a messy diaper it was hard to keep those casts clean. I’d have to tuck cotton and stuff because it made his little legs sore.

Then the Hartles over to Lapoint, Donna Hartle and Ken, said that Jay Hartle was born with clubbed feet and told us how bad his feet were. They said, “Why don’t you take him out to Dr. Mulligan in Salt Lake because he knows what to do with those kind of feet.” This was May, we went out to Salt Lake to see Dr. Mulligan. He took one look at us and he shook his head and he said, “That isn’t the way you doctor club feet.” He told us how he cast the whole let up to the diaper line, both legs. Then he said, “Every two weeks” he said, “one week I’ll put the cast on and you bring him back in two weeks and I’ll cut a little wedge out of the outside of the cast and we’ll wedge it back.”

Lyle: And he'll correct it a little more you know.

Vee: They had the little toes down trying to get those to grow back straight. I think I was a basket case every time we went out there. He would just scream when that electric saw would be turned on.

Lyle: When they'd show up in their white uniforms he'd know what was going to happen so he'd start to scream and cling on to us.

Vee: We finally had to give him a suppository about the third or fourth time we were there because we couldn't handle him. They didn't want to put him out, they just wanted to be able to do it with a suppository. That worked a little bit. We'd have to do it 30 minutes to an hour before we came in. He says, "Well it will take me at least six months to correct these feet or a year." He says, "This is like every two weeks." So once we used the cream check that would take us into Salt Lake to pay our expenses in. We didn't have insurance then either. Babies only cost like seventy five dollars in those days. I think my whole hospital bill and the doctor's bill was like a \$125.00. Pretty cheap baby. It was the end of June when Lyle got called to go into the Korean War and by the time Lyle left in July we made our last visit there before he left. And he said, "I think we can put him in little corrective shoes." He said, "He's done so well." I know it was just because he had been administered to and with our faith and prayers that he had those feet with his doctors knowledge could correct those feet to that point. So, we told him what our circumstances was and he said, "Every time you come through Salt Lake." He said, "You call me. I want to see him and see how he's doing." He referred us to a doctor in Spokane, Washington because Lyle was going to Camp Hamford up at North Richland, that's up by Pasco. When Lyle would be transferred then we would call him and he did a lot of free service at Primary Children's Hospital. But he did the feet in his office. He was so nice, so nice and kind to us. His nurse in there was an older lady and I just couldn't believe they could be so sweet and so nice to us because I wasn't used to that.

Lyle: Didn't we take him into Spokane to see an orthopedic surgeon?

Vee: We had to get a larger pair of shoes for him. They were pointed out so it would keep those feet turned out. This first little pair of shoes was so darling. They were lace up. They had straps over the top but the toes were out. That was so that those feet could kind of still grow and not be squished and yet try to keep those toes in place trying to keep them down.

To me that was probably our first big trial was the baby being born and about that time was when the Korean War broke out. We listened to the news faithfully twice a day because we just knew that he would get a call and have to go into the service.

Vee: Well this little toe, I think it was these last two on each side, they showed us how to tape them down. I think this little toe still had a tendency to hooch up over the other one and still does



to this day. They said, "Well you could do surgery on 'em, but we had been through enough, he had been through enough. They didn't want to do until he got older so we never did do really anything about the little toes. Once in awhile he said it bothered him when that one would kind of hooch up over the other toes. It was really traumatic experience because he wore those shoes until he was about three years old. You'd just have to go and have to order them. Get them measured and he'd have to order them. I still have them. I think I had Julie wear them when she had crooked feet. When we got those shoes they only had one so they had to order another shoe for him. He only had the one shoe on and everywhere we went someone would say, "Oh your babies lost a shoe. How come he's lost a shoe?" I'd say, "No, he just has one on, they're corrective, they're going to mail us another one." We had to get used to that. You feel a little bit like maybe it's your fault because the baby had crooked feet. We didn't know about all these genes and things, but Dr. Seager always said, "Well, it's the way you held him before he was born. That's why those feet got all crumpled up."

That's the first thing I looked afterwards when every baby was born. The blanket came off and I checked their feet. Julies was just a little bit crooked. She was only in corrective shoes just about a year or so and it straightened hers up.

Lyle: Let me tell you a little more about Lamoyne. By the time he got in grade school you couldn't tell. He was perfectly normal. He was in athletics. When he came here to Uintah High School, why he started on the football team for about three years. He was on the state champion wrestling team. He went to BYU and got his masters degree as an electrical engineer. He ended up with some of the bigger companies.

Vee: We did have running water then. We put that running water in that fall. Ollie Justice came up and did some dynamiting. We made a little square cistern which we still used until two or three years ago and piped the water into the house. We had a hot water heater connected to the coal stove in the kitchen. That's how we heated our hot water. That was nice to have that in the kitchen. We didn't have the bathroom done until in 1953. We saved enough money while he was in the army to put a bathroom in when we got back. I was just really happy to have that running water in the kitchen. We had to sometimes leave a little drizzle running in the winter time so that it wouldn't freeze up at nights.

After Brent was born they blew more insulation in the attic. The home was made out of logs, log walls. You really couldn't insulate. But they used big heavy, heavy wall paper. It wasn't like the wall paper we think of as today, but it was a big heavy, heavy wall paper in the two bedrooms that weren't finished. We slept in what they called, Lyle's bedroom, in the south bedroom. There was a south bedroom, a middle bedroom, and a north bedroom. That's still how we refer to them today. You could go through like to the kitchen into the two bedrooms. We called it round circle.

We had the little boys and they each had their trucks. The marks are still on the wood where they would hit the wood parts and ride their tricycles around because that was one thing they liked to do after they would get new tricycles at Christmas time, and we let them do it.

Elaine: So Lyle, you went in the Korean War? Did you go over seas?

Vee: No he didn't go over seas.

Lyle: When I first went in, why they assigned me to Camp Handford, Washington. There's an atomic energy plant in Handford, Washington. It's near what they call a tri city area, Pasco, Kennewick and Richland, Washington. It's just along the Columbia River up there. I expected they send me to some more training but sent me right to this unit that was guarding the Hanford Atomic Plant, because they figured if the Koreans could do something like Pearl Harbor and infiltrate or explode at one of our atomic plants that would be a big moral victory. So, we were really serious. We always had loaded guns and we had these big artillery guns that we'd shoot in the air if there was any planes ever came over.

Vee: He was in the artillery section.

Lyle: One of my jobs, we had these great big hundred and twenty millimeter guns and they would shoot about...if it didn't hit a target, why the projectile would keep going for about two miles. So one of the jobs they had me do was I had a little plane. A guy would pick me up and we'd fly out the trajectory of every gun. If we'd see a sheep camp or a farm house or something out there why then the next day I'd have to go get a jeep and go out there and write up a story about what I found and what it might take to buy them out if they ever shot that way.

After I think I'd been there about a year or so why I got orders to go to Fort Bliss, Texas to forward observers school. That was when the Chinese had joined the Koreans and were coming down through Korea making their drives. The forward observers were the highest casualty of any in the war because they would stay out there with their radios and call the artillery in on all those Korean soldiers and Chinese that was marching down through Korea. When they got overrun by these soldiers they just called the shots right on their own positions. It would kill a hundred maybe Koreans and Chinese but also kill them selves.

They sent me to this school down there to be a forward observer. I had my will wrote before I got through the school and all the insurance they'd sell me. I figured, you know I was heading over there and I was kind of waiting for my orders and when my orders come, they sent me back to Hanford, Washington. I couldn't figure that out until the day I was getting discharged why there was a warrant officer that was there and you had to be clearanced from supply and clearance of the credit bureau and all of your equipment that you was responsible for and your drivers licenses and everything. You had a big old checklist that was about two pages. You had to go around and get people to sign you off. This warrant officer was processing me and he had a folder on me about one inch thick just laying there on the table. He said, "Oh excuse me, I've got to go do something." He had a phone call and he had to go. So while he was gone I just flipped that over and opened it up and started reading. I thought, "It's my stuff I can do what I want with it." One of the things that I ran on to was that when I'd been there they'd done a background

investigation on me for a top secret clearance for security. When I got back home the guy that had the store and my Bishop and county commissioners and sheriff and everybody these FBI agents had come and talked to them about me and asking questions about me and all that. The expense of making those background clearance was expensive and that's why I didn't go to Korea because they done all that expense and they didn't want to waste that by sending me back to Korea so they sent me back up there to Hanford to finish guarding the atomic plant. That's where I stayed until the rest of my tour was up.

Vee: When did they advance you to a First Lieutenant?

Lyle: About half through after a year or so and then they promoted me to a First Lieutenant. A lot of the soldiers that were, especially the officers and the non-commissioned officers, that's the Sergeants and the Corporals and the Master Sergeants, were sent to Korea because they were so short of soldiers over there. A lot of us guys that hadn't had experience were thrown in and had more responsible things that we really wasn't quite trained for but just thrown into the situation and you had to do the best you could.

Elaine: Vee did you go live up there on base?

Vee: He went up there the 27<sup>th</sup> of July.

Lyle: I went up there and after you'd been there so many months they'll give you a three day pass.

Vee: You were only gone two weeks when you came back on a three day pass.

Lyle: Well, some how I finagled a three day pass. I think it's 2000 miles up there. Anyway, I came home on a three day pass and I'd just drive almost day and night. When I got so sleepy I couldn't hardly stand it, why I had a pillow and I'd just lay over on the pillow sleep until I woke up and then I'd go again. I came home and got Vee and we had the one little boy. And was we expecting the second one by then?

Vee: Yeah, but I didn't tell anybody.

Lyle: I came home and got her.

Vee: We'd sold our pickup too and bought a car so we'd have a car to travel in.

Lyle: We put everything we thought we'd need in the back seat. It was just level; there was just a small space between it and the top. Then, we'd throw Lamoyne back in there.

Vee: We had him a little bed made just behind the seat.

Lyle: Then we had the trunk full and we had one of these carriers on top. I remember one of our moves we got everything that we thought we had and thought, 'We better go back in the house and check once more.' We went back and there was the little potty chair. We just tied it on top and down the road we went and there was this little potty chair right on top.

Vee: That's where we had the crib too. When we went from Washington to Texas we had to take everything, your ironing board, we moved, period, because we didn't know where we'd be.

Elaine: So you went to Texas with him also?

Vee: Um huh. But, he came home on the three day pass, he'd been gone two weeks and I can remember, he'd written and said I think I can get a three day pass and he told me which day and so I was getting things ready to go back with him. I can remember when I thought he ought to be coming. We were living at the ranch. His folks had moved back up there with me. I can remember of running down the road and met him before he even got to the house. I was so excited to see him. We stayed over night. We loaded up the next day.

Lyle: I just barely got back there in time to sign in when my three day pass was over.

Vee: We had stopped and seen my parents on the way because we didn't know when we'd see them again.

Lyle: I knew a way to take a short cut to get back a little quicker.

Vee: He likes short cuts.

Lyle: We had to make to make a short cut up where we were, why there were bridges across the Columbia River. But, this short cut there was a barge. You had to go across this barge across the Columbia River and they'd pull that with a cable. It was a ferry. You just pull your vehicle out on there and set your brake and put it in gear so it wouldn't roll off in the water. Then they'd pull you across. When we got there why it was dark but we managed to get them to take us across. After dark you can see that water swirling around in front of you and feel like your rolling so you'd just keep pushing the brake to keep from going forward.

Vee: I was sure we were going to roll off in there and all of us be drowned. I was never so scared in my life.

Lyle: I think we went through Pendleton, Oregon, to get there, but anyway we got there in time.

Vee: You had to be there by midnight. He had to be there the next morning but their curfews was always like midnight. When we went to El Paso, it was midnight, we had to be in the city limits. But he had found us an apartment in Kennewick.

When we got back to Washington their streets was different. They were divided. But I had to take him to camp and find my way back.

Lyle: I kept telling her, "Now here's a landmark right here. Make sure you remember it."

Vee: I was so scared on the way back. Lamoyne was a real fussy baby because anybody in white from the hospital experience he would just scream. You'd go in a café and they always wear white and he would just start screaming. He was three years old before he ever outgrew that. We had this funny little car seat. You just set him down in it with there legs in. He was too small to go in that but I had blankets tucked around him so I could keep him up in the front with me because I didn't want him rolling off in the back seat. But, I was really afraid until I got back to where that apartment was. It was upstairs.

We had a one bedroom apartment but it was a nice size living room and kitchen area together and a bathroom. Here I was alone for three days. I think I finally decided I had to go get food the first day I was alone. Then, I had to go back up and pick him up. I was all settled in and had our place looking kind of nice with doilies and beds made. As winter came, I hate mice, and you'd go to the bathroom and you could hear the mice between the walls. You could hear them gnawing trying to get through. I hated mice. I was scared of them.

One time I was in the kitchen area and saw one come up from underneath the sink because it was open. I let out my little blood curdling scream like I always do when I see a mouse. I used to take flat jar lids, because we did take fruit up there, and my mother used to do this in the one house we lived in, she'd hammer these flat lids over a hole that the mice had chewed through in the pantry. I got so I was doing that in the bathroom and we started looking for another apartment and it was getting winter. We did find another apartment to move in.

My experience with the officer wife's club was another experience. I didn't really know how to act. Anyway I had my gloves I was of course pregnant and getting a little bit on the fat side. I went up with one of the captain's wife's. I just felt so inferior up there. Of course they had their coffee cups. There was another gal up there, and I can't remember where she was from, but she was LDS. It might have been around Christmas time. The tables were really pretty. They had their silverware and everything was set properly. I said to her, "What do I do with this cup? I don't drink coffee." She said, "Well turn it over." I turned my cup over and they brought me something else to drink. That was my first experience and I don't think I ever went back to another officer's club party or meeting because I felt very uncomfortable. It wasn't my life style. I just didn't want to go.

I was pregnant with Clayton, second child, when Lyle was advanced to be First Lieutenant. We went up to Captain Boyey's home when they had an open house and they had a Colonel and quite a few dignitaries there. I was always trying to be very polite, very nice, and I

had very little to say because I was afraid I might say the wrong words. You'd be around there and to see all the saluting going on. You just really look around and think I don't belong here. Even once in awhile, I'll call him the Lieutenant, when he starts to give me a few orders.

Lyle: I call her General. The grandkids gave her that name.

Vee: Then Clayton was born.

Elaine: When you were in Washington.

Vee: Uh huh. We'd moved from Kennewick out of that mousy apartment over to a basement apartment. Their names were Ray and Wyoma White. They had two boys and a little girl. Lamoyne could always hold his breath really good too and about scare you to death. You thought sure he was dying. Her little girl was the same age and she could throw a fit just like that. If those two were playing together and one of them wanted one thing and they grab it and they would both flop on the floor and hold their breath. That was quite a challenge for us because she used to tend Lamoyne for me when I'd have to go pick up Lyle or go up to see the doctor. We went on base to see the doctor because it didn't cost us anything.

The baby was born in Pasco. I don't remember having to pay for Clayton's hospital bill. But I only made three trips to the hospital. Everybody said, "If you start having pains you better go because the second baby comes in a hurry." Well after the third time, I said, "I'm not going, it's just another false alarm." Finally Lyle talked me into going. One time I had to call him to come home to take me and got over there and I was making progress and they quit. After keeping me for about ten hours they sent me home. He still came two weeks early, but he was a nice healthy little baby boy. I almost had him in the elevator.

Lyle: She kept saying, "Well let's wait and make sure before we go."

Vee: He went upstairs to see if Ray and Wyoma were ready to tend Lamoyne and they said, "It's about time you took her. We were ready to start heating the pans of hot water." I just almost didn't make it. I almost had him in the elevator. I managed to get upstairs. I don't know how, but I did. He was born within five minutes I think. It was fast. I think I had a different doctor. Every time you went to the base, you had a different doctor. That was something you really didn't get used to is having a different doctor. They made a few little remarks I didn't like. That one said, "Well, she's Mormon." After that he treated me with a little more respect. Anyway, Clayton was born, a little black headed baby just like Lamoyne.

My mother came up on the bus to help take care of me. I wasn't even sick really, I just got a long so good and I could walk. It wasn't like the first one. But, she was good to be there with me and to help me out and get used to two babies. Lamoyne was just a year and two weeks old. I decided I wouldn't nurse Clayton because when I nursed Lamoyne he had such an oozy stomach. I think my milk just didn't set with him. He would just vomit right down my neck. I

was always changing clothes during the day. He would be nursing and then you could burp him and all of a sudden start to nurse again it would just come out. So, I wouldn't tackle Clayton. He was such a good baby. He was a bottle fed baby, but oh he was a good baby.

Lamoyne used to get things if he could poke them in the light sockets when I was bottle feeding him [Clayton] because I wanted to hold him when I fed him so you could bond. It finally got so I had to prop the bottle up, because he would just get into everything while I was trying to feed Clayton. You couldn't put him in his bed to cry because you had to clean the whole bed because he just really had a bad stomach and he was so nauseated. You'd have to wash everything, blankets, sheets, and clean up the floor. So I soon learned to run and grab him the minute he started to cry or fuss, I grabbed him out of his bed.

While we were still up there we did go up to the officers club and play bingo. I think we won a frying pan one night. That was part of our entertainment. I took Lamoyne to the nursery once before Clayton was born. About after twice, I said that it wasn't worth it. He'd cry the whole hour or two that we ate dinner and played bingo. I couldn't stand to go back to pick him up and they'd say, "Well, we couldn't get him good. He just cried and sobbed."

Lyle: These two little boys of ours was the first grandchildren of my parents and my mother kind of...

Vee: Your mom said Lamoyne was the most beautiful baby that was ever born.

Lyle: They made a big fuss over him and always wanted to take 'em and tend them and everything for us.

One thing when I was in the service, why the church had a kind of a policy where if you wanted to wear your garments you could or if they were going to be an embarrassment to you or if you it was going to be mockery to the church or anything why then they suggest you could take them off while you were in the service and not wear them. I knew they were a shield and a protection to you and I wanted to wear mine if I could.

I lost about twenty pounds I think in the first two or three months during the service. We had all kinds of good food and everything to eat, but I was just stressed because of the newness and everything that was going on and the responsibilities I had that I didn't think I was qualified for. I remember we'd do a lot of calisthenics and we'd take off our shirts, and then you could either take your garments down and have them right around your waist or you could if you wanted to, I guess, you could have them on. We'd climb ropes and do all kinds of things to stay in shape. I remember one time I kind of overheard a couple of other soldiers that was talking. I thought they were talking about me. One of them didn't quite know who he was talking about and he said, "Oh, you know that Lieutenant that wears the funny underwear."

Vee: This basement apartment we moved into, she had a washer down there with a twin tubs for your rinse clothes. She told me I could use her washer, so that really helped. In the winter time it was just foggy along that Columbia River and you could never dry clothes outside. So she had

lines down there and then those little collapsible clothes driers that you could hang your clothes on to dry. The Whites were really good to us.

When you first went in down there, there was one little room that was just large enough for one dresser and the crib. You'd open the door and you'd hit the crib. There was one big room just not much longer than probably from there to there. We had a bed and a dresser and a couple of chairs. You had the curtains that separated the bedroom area from the kitchen area and there was, was a refrigerator and a stove and the cupboards were open and she had curtains up in front of those cupboards to protect what ever you had in them, your dishes, pot and pans. Then, the bathroom was a shower. There was table and chairs in that little small apartment.

Then they bought a house and moved. But, while we were still living there before Clayton was born, they taught us how to play Pinnacle. I didn't think I'd ever learn how to play that but it was kind of fun. We'd just get together and go upstairs and Lamoyne would play with there little boys and their daughter. That kind of helped to fill my vacancy time because I didn't have any friends up there. I'd only go to church when Lyle was off base because Lamoyne bawled all the time when he got around strangers. He would just cry and cry. I think I went once or twice and I was discouraged. After Clayton was born, I didn't go because I couldn't take two babies.

Lyle: I came home and we went quite a bit.

Vee: Yeah, when he'd be home on Sundays we went all the time.

Lyle: I always kind of had in the back of mind that I ought to go on a mission. By the time I got old enough to go on a mission, why I really had me some good jobs lined up, up at college. I was making progress. Then before I got to be twenty, why I was starting to fall in love with Vee. We served as Ward and Stake missionaries but not full time missionaries like a lot of couples but anyway I think we had some good missionary experiences while we were in the service. I'll tell you about Vee's good missionary work. She's kind of bashful about bragging. This couple that we lived with that had the two boys and the little girl that lived upstairs they would see us going to church. The church was just a few blocks from where we lived. They were kind of curious about our church and what we believed so we had a chance to talk to them about our religion and things. She was almost a chain smoker. She smoked at least a pack a day or more. He didn't.

Vee: And, he didn't drink coffee, she did. They were both raised in orphanages and that's where they met.

Lyle: They had a lot more fear that their children would end up in an orphanage. They soon ask us if their kids could go to church with us up there. We told them, "Sure, we'll take 'em with us." So whenever we could why we took them and they kind of liked it. They wanted to go back. They fit into the nursery, Sunday school and primary. I got to fast forward to finish this story. When I got an honorable discharge from the army why we went to them and kind of told them



good-bye, we was going to be leaving before long. They said, “We’d sure like to come down there to Utah and meet you folks and see where you live. We think a lot of you.” So we told them, “Yeah, you come. You let us know when you can come.” They did come. They said, “We’ve got some papers filled out and we was just wondering if you would consent, if anything should happen to us and our kids would be orphans if you’d take them and raise them for us.” We thought that was quite an honor to be asked that because we were strangers to them when we first went there and we got that good acquainted with them. They were dead serious, they wanted us to take their kids if anything should happen to them. They had the papers for us to assign agreeing to that. We told them, “Yeah, we will.”

We get a card from them about every Christmas and they tell us how they’re doing. There for the first few years after we got home, why they’d tell us about Charles, the oldest, was going to be baptized. The next thing he was ordained a deacon and the other kids were baptized and they just kept telling us about these experiences in the church that their kids had. I think at least one of the boys went on a mission. The parents....

Vee: They never did say if they joined the church.

Lyle: I think it was mainly because of the word of wisdom and maybe tithing. Their kids all grewed up and married through the church.

Vee: They brought their family down here one summer and visited with us. Then, they were here one other time with another couple. They just had their one little girl with them. These are experiences you appreciate.

Lyle: During the Korean War and I think it’s the same in the other wars, in my case, the ward or the quorum would send you a copy of the Improvement Era every month. I’d take mine when I’d go out to the Forward Area where we had all these guns and protecting the Hanford Atomic Plant, to have something to read. These other soldiers, some of them old tough sergeants that had killed guys with bayonets and been through a World War or two in Germany and in the Pacific, if I ever saw anyone who could chew nails and spit ‘em out, why it would be those guys. But anyway they I was so surprised when they’d ask me if they could borrow my book. They’d take that and pass it around and before I’d get it back it would practically be wore out. There was a lot of good stories in ‘em and things. I think that was a missionary tool. I think the church realized that. It couldn’t hurt anybody to read those stories. That was another missionary effort that we had.

Vee: I had my little precious Relief Society magazine, those little small ones. They were just full of continued stories, love stories, poems, lessons. Everybody that ever had those said that was the one church magazine that we all dearly loved and cried when they discontinued that and changed the program. My mother made sure that I had that. She bought that for me for my birthday my first birthday after we were married.

I might also mention, Wyoma, the mother, the Whites that lived upstairs, I guess they brought her a Book of Mormon, and then they came and ask for it back. That was always left a sour taste in her mouth. Oh and she could swear a blue streak too, and he was opposite. But they were so good to us.

I need to tell you about the first Christmas tree up there in Pasco. Lyle told me that they were supposed to bring me a Christmas tree. I never did get one. He'd come home and he'd say, "Did they bring your tree." I'd say, "No." So, when he went back, and it was like a week or so before Christmas he bounced them, those privates, hadn't taken his wife a Christmas tree. So here come my tree. It was the straggiest thing. I just cried because the very first Christmas we had in Deep Creek, Lyle cut me a perfect Christmas tree, so bushy, it was just a perfect tree. So, naturally I expected every tree after that to be perfectly shaped. So when he come home we bought a stand and got it on a stand. We started tying branches up to make it look a little nicer. This would be like 1951. His mother came up during the holidays to see us and brought Irene, his baby sister up with her. We enjoyed the holidays with them except while they were there Lyle's Grandmother Taylor passed away. That was kind of sad for his mom being up there and the winter was really bad down here. She couldn't get back for the funeral. We did enjoy having them stay with us up there. I think I slept in the bed with his mom and then Irene slept on the floor and I think Lyle slept on the floor.

One more experience up there before I had two babies. I just had the one. Lyle would tell me what time to be there to pick him up. If he was across the river, the ferries only came back every so many hours. I had been up there since five o'clock. Lamoyne cried and cried and I'd get out and walk around with him. Here I was on base. I was afraid every time I'd see a bunch of soldiers come I'd run and get in the car and lock the doors. Finally Captain Bovey came along. It was dark then. I recognized him and so I got out. He said, "Has Lyle came in yet?" I said, "No." I said, "My poor little baby is just crying and crying." I said, "I can't hardly keep him good." He said, "Well if he doesn't come by ten o'clock, he probably won't be in. I was just getting ready to pull out and leave when he came and he found the car. He came over to me and he was really hot under the collar. I had never seen him that mad. He went on base and found his chauffeur, he had a chauffeur. He'd come off and left him, left him on the other side of the river. I think that was the last ferry that came across. What did you do to this private, chauffeur for the week-end.

Lyle: Some kind of reprimand.

Vee: You told him he couldn't go off base. He had to stay on base. I tell you, I was so glad to see him. One other time when we lived back over in Kennewick the second time after we came back from El Paso, he took the car to base which he did quite often and he'd be gone at least three days and maybe four and I was without a vehicle. He came home that one night and I could see him walking. This little house that we lived in, there were two little houses kind of up on a little bit of a hill. The people who owned these two homes lived down below us. Here he came a walkin' and I thought, 'What's happened to the car. Has he had a wreck.' I got all panicky before he got up to the house and I think we both said at the same time, "Well, where's the car?" He

said, "Where's the car?" I said, "Where's the car, you drove it." "No, did I take it to base?" He had forgotten he'd taken it to base. So then he had to get somebody to take him back up to the base, which was at least 30 minutes to an hour to get the vehicle and bring it home because he was home for three days, at least at nights.

Then another time before Clayton was born he came home and he would call me, it seems like the above apartment had a phone. He said, "I want to take you back to Yakama to the firing range. You can stay over there with me for two or three days." So we got us a motel over there and that was about seventy or eighty miles.

Lyle: Yakama, Washington, apples and grapes.

Vee: We had the nicest motel room. The floor had radiant heat. Oh, it was so nice and warm to get out of bed and walk into the bathroom and have that floor be so warm and nice. He'd go out to work in the day time. It was so good to have him come home at night. I can't remember now what I'd do to eat, but I guess I probably went somewhere and got me something to eat or brought it back to the motel. I think I was up there two or three nights with him while he was there. But then I had to go back alone, drive all that distance with Lamoyne and me pregnant. He was the crossest baby. I think he cried nearly all the way. I ended up driving with one hand and finally just holding onto him with the other and I never stopped. I was so glad to be back to our apartment. That winter it was so cold up there as well as cold down here in the Basin and all the snow that they had.